

Book reviews

Roxburgh's common skin diseases. 15th ed. Revised by JD Kirby. London: HK Lewis, 1986. Pp 432, 244 illustrations. Price £10 paperback, £16 hardback.

It is a delight to review this old faithful, albeit in a new green paperback cover, not the familiar red cloth one. In most parts of the world the physician with an interest in venereal diseases will probably be a dermatologist, and though this book cannot, as the reviser himself states, be considered anything like adequate in its coverage of sexually transmitted diseases, it is a first rate primary text in skin diseases aimed at the undergraduate or general practitioner.

The text is conservative. The photographs are familiar, as they are seen not only in this textbook but some in old editions of King and Nicols' textbook, *Venereal diseases*. They are none the worse for that.

In the field of sexually transmitted diseases the textbook is inadequate. Acyclovir is not mentioned. Contact tracing is not mentioned. Candidal balanitis is left out. The

Wassermann reaction is still mentioned in the differential diagnosis of psoriasis. Conversely, there are some excellent illustrations of common skin conditions seen in the genital region; such as seborrhoeic eczema (p 191), flexural psoriasis (p 201), and penile lichen planus (p 228).

This is a textbook to be recommended for what it is, a primary textbook in dermatology, applicable to the home undergraduate who does not intend to specialise in skin diseases, or the overseas student who will have very limited laboratory resources for investigations. It reflects a certain, now passing, style of the London teaching hospitals.

Michael Waugh

Sensory disorders of the bladder and urethra. George NJR and Gosling JA, eds. Berlin: Springer-Verlag; 1986. Pp 181. Price £36.20.

This book is a very useful contribution to the practice of genitourinary medicine and

surgery. It is a serious attempt to categorise ill defined sensory disorders that fall under the headings "the urethral syndrome" in women and "prostatodynia" in men. There is also a comprehensive review of the diagnosis and treatment of interstitial cystitis. Before these conditions are considered the first part of the book describes the anatomy and physiology of bladder sensation and the techniques of investigation. Patients with sensory disorders may be seen in a wide variety of clinics including urology, gynaecology, sexually transmitted disease, and urinary infection clinics and psychiatric departments, and there is no doubt that many of these patients receive ineffective treatment because of our lack of understanding of the underlying disorders. This book has contributions from a number of leading experts and though the subject matter is not always easy reading I would recommend it to all clinicians who see patients with persistent undiagnosed urinary frequency or discomfort.

T B Hargreave

Notices

Organisers of meetings who wish to insert notices should send details to the editor (address on the inside front cover at least eight months before the date of the meeting or six months before the closing date for application.

Grand Orient de Belgique masonic lodge, Les Amis du Commerce et la Perseverance Reunis, 4th medical prize

In March 1987 the masonic lodge "Les Amis du Commerce et la Perseverance Reunis" in Antwerp will award its 4th medical prize of 30 000 ECU (£19 000).

The purpose of the prize is to reward a scientist or group of scientists who, in the course of their research work, have made a significant contribution to the progress of medical science whether theoretical or practical, fundamental or clinical. The prize may be divided between several candidates.

The prize will be awarded by jury of four members and a president appointed by the masonic lodge "Les Amis du Commerce et la Perseverance Reunis". The jury shall be entitled to call in experts for advice if it deems necessary. The members of the jury who will have been empanelled to attend the meetings will have to justify their judgment of the candidacies in writing. All deliberations will be made in camera and decisions made by a simple majority. All working expenses will be paid by the organising lodge.

The competition is open to any researcher whether certified or not, without discrimination of a racial, national, sexual, or philosophical nature. Candidacies for the prize must be sponsored by at least two freemasons whose masonic qualifications must be confirmed by their masonic authorities. In turn the sponsors will have to vouch in writing for the moral integrity of their candidates.

All applications must be accompanied by a detailed curriculum vitae of the candidates, a résumé of their scientific activities, and the opinion of the authorities under whom they work. All applications must be submitted before 30 December 1986 and addressed to: Mr René De Zuttere, Hoogpadlaan 101, B-2070 Antwerp, Belgium.

The jury will come to a decision not later than 31 March 1987. This decision will be final and not open to appeal. The prize will be presented during an academic session in Antwerp in May 1987. The masonic lodge "Les Amis du Commerce et la Perseverance Reunis" reserves the right to withhold the prize should the applications appear to be below standard.

First international conference on homosexuality and medicine

The first international conference on homosexuality and medicine will take place in London on 14 to 16 August 1986. Programmes, registration forms, and abstract forms may be obtained from the GMA Secretariat, c/o Caroline Roney Medical Conference Organisers, 100 Park Road, London NW1 4RN (tel: 01 723 6722).

Eighth international meeting of dermatological research

The eighth meeting devoted to dermatological research will be held under the auspices of the Société de Recherche Dermatologique in Nantes, France on 9 to 11 October 1986. The meeting will be organised by the department of dermatology, Centre Hospitalier Régional de Nantes, Hôtel-Dieu, Nantes, France (Director, Professor H Barrière). Further information, abstract forms, and application forms may be obtained from Dr JF Stalder, CARD Service de Dermatologie, CHU 44035 Nantes, France.